

Serial No. 09/841,038

**REMARKS****INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10, and 12 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103**

In the Office Action at pages 5-10, numbered item 4, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over "Related Art" in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,738 to Osaku and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,418,431 to Mahaian, et al. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a search support device, implemented on a client computer, in which an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network is registered. As amended, independent claim 1 recites "a search unit that determines a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu" and "a registration unit that registers an address in the hierarchical category." Amended independent claim 1 further recites "wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network" and "wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword." Independent claims 3, 4, 8-10, and 12 have been amended to recite features similar to those of amended independent claim 1. Support for the amendments to these claims can be found in the originally filed specification, at least at page 20, lines 16-31.

Thus, according to the newly amended independent claims, in the present invention, a hierarchical category is produced on a client computer on the side of a user. Further, the amended independent claims recite that "when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level

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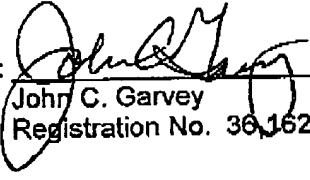
category corresponding to the new keyword." Thus, according to the present invention, a user can easily obtain an appropriate keyword to be used for searching for desired information. Applicant respectfully submits that the neither the "Related Art," Osaku, nor Mahajan, et al. teach or suggest this feature as recited by the amended independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the "Related Art," Osaku, and Mahajan, et al., taken alone or in combination, fail to teach all of the features of amended independent claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10, and 12, and those claims depending either directly or indirectly therefrom. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 5-9-05

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on May 9, 2005  
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Date: May 9, 2005